

Implementation Handbook for Family and Consumer Sciences

***Including Scope & Sequence, Program Evaluation, and
Critical-Thinking Process***

Third Edition

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Family and Consumer Sciences Education National Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement:

To empower individuals and families across the life span to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse, global society. Our unique focus is on families, work, and their interrelationships.

Mission Statement:

To prepare students for family life, work life, and careers in family and consumer sciences by providing opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors needed for

- Strengthening the well-being of individuals and families across the life span
- Becoming responsible citizens and leaders of family, community, and work settings
- Promoting optimal nutrition and wellness across the life span
- Managing resources to meet the material needs of individuals and families
- Balancing personal, home, family, and work lives
- Using critical and creative thinking skills to address problems in diverse family, community, and work environments
- Functioning as providers and consumers of goods and services
- Appreciating human worth and accepting responsibility for one's actions and success in family and work life
- Successful life management, employment, and career development

Created and Adopted by Family and Consumer Sciences Education Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education, 1994. Adopted by the Missouri Educators of Family and Consumer Sciences, 1994.

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Preface

The primary focus of family and consumer sciences is preparing students for adult roles and family responsibilities. Successful families do not just happen; they require a sustained effort. Preparing individuals for the work of the family is basic and necessary for building strong families and a productive workforce. This document was created to assist administrators and teachers in developing and implementing quality family and consumer sciences education programs that will prepare individuals for family life, work life, and the interrelationship of work and family.

In the 1960s, the program's scope was expanded to include preparing individuals for occupations in career clusters related to family and consumer sciences content. Family and consumer sciences education contributes significantly to the preparation of workers in nearly one third of the occupations expected to experience the largest growth in Missouri. Today, students in family and consumer sciences programs can prepare for virtually hundreds of current and emerging careers in fields such as dietetics, interior design, hospitality, fashion, food service, education, consumer services, and family and children services.

During the last part of the 20th century, a change in the instructional philosophy took place within the discipline. Although the goal of the program has always been about improving the quality of individual and family life, the emphasis began to change from teaching the technical aspects of running a home to embracing the communicative aspects of nurturing the family unit and the individuals within that unit. There is less focus on teaching students the "correct way" to perform household tasks. The program's emphasis is on the relationship needed between thought and action in addressing recurring or perennial family problems. Society depends on families to nurture, socialize, and support individuals in becoming contributing citizens and productive workers. More than ever, employers need skilled employees who also effectively manage their personal and family lives. This is the work of the family.

In 1993, 100 members of the profession met in Scottsdale, Arizona, to discuss future directions. Outcomes from this Scottsdale conference included a conceptual framework for defining the profession and providing direction for curriculum development. Based on this framework came the adoption of a new vision and mission statement in 1994 by the Home Economics Education Division of the American Vocational Association, which is now the Association of Career and Technical Education. That same year, the name of the profession changed from home economics education to family and consumer sciences education. Programs assisting students to focus the work of the family and the effects of family on careers continue to increase in importance as students try to make the connection between their education and their careers. Assisting individuals to understand the role of balancing work and family remains unique to the discipline.

One of the intents of this guide is to help districts establish quality family and consumer sciences programs that will guide students in learning to solve the practical problems of the family using a critical science perspective. As curriculum and instruction advance beyond the traditional technical

“how-to” approach to one that is student directed and process oriented, students learn that the process of studying questions and finding answers is as important as the answers. The process skills needed for critical thinking are a part of every new curriculum guide the Family and Consumer Sciences Section, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education develops. These process skills are closely aligned with the four goals of the Show-Me Standards. By developing curriculum and instructional strategies “using the critical science perspective, family and consumer sciences are aligned with other subject matter areas such as integrated language arts and social studies – which also embrace a process-oriented curriculum” (Redick, S. in *Family and Consumer Sciences: A Chapter of the Curriculum Handbook*, p. 2, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Alexandria, VA, 1998).

We hope this guide will serve as the framework and handbook for assisting districts in their goal of providing quality programs that will prepare students of all ages to be critical and ethical thinkers and successful family, career, and community leaders. The quality of the program will be measured by the improved quality of life for Missouri’s citizens.

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